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COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Sixteenth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 3rd MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 29 April 1997, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Mr. ALSTON

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GE.97-16279 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

SOLEMN DECLARATION BY A NEW MEMBER

1. In accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Committee, Mr. Ceville solemnly undertook to discharge his duties as a member of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights impartially and conscientiously.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK (agenda item 4) (continued)

2. The CHAIRPERSON read out a letter dated 29 April 1997 addressed to the Committee by the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations Office at Geneva (document distributed during the meeting, in English only). In that letter, the Permanent Mission stated that it regretted to inform the members of the Committee that, because of the sanctions imposed by Security Council resolutions 731 (1992), 748 (1992) and 883 (1993), the Libyan delegation had not been able to travel to Geneva to present its report (E/1990/5/Add.26). The Libyan authorities apologized to the Committee and asked it to postpone consideration of their report until the next session.

3. After a discussion, he suggested that the Secretary of the Committee should be asked to contact the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in Geneva to inquire if it would be able to send its representative to the Committee before the end of the session to present the replies of the Libyan Government to the list of issues (E/C.12/Q/LIBYA.1).

4. He further suggested setting up a working group comprising Mr. Ahmed (country rapporteur for Libya), Mrs. Bonoan-Dandan (Rapporteur of the Committee) and Mr. Pillay to review the available documents with a view to the adoption of concluding observations on the implementation of the Covenant by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

5. It was so decided.

6. The CHAIRPERSON, speaking on behalf of the members, emphasized the need to make the work of the Committee better known among both States parties and United Nations bodies and other international organizations, in particular the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank, to improve cooperation with the secretariat and to rationalize the Committee's methods of work.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.